

2003 Annual Report of the Missouri State Park Advisory Board

E. Sanford Baker, Chairperson (2001-2004)
Kansas City

Don Johnson, Vice Chairperson (2001-2004)
Festus

Ann Johnson (1998-2004)
Holts Summit

Emily Firebaugh (1998-2003)
Farmington

Ed Stegner (1990-2005)
Pilot Grove

Terry Satterlee (1995-2003)
Kansas City

Andrew Wood (1997-2003)
Neosho

Howard Miedler (2002-2005)
Moberly

Bob Holden, Governor

Stephen M. Mahfood, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Douglas K. Eiken, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Missouri State Park Advisory Board

Record of Decisions for 2003

April 11, 2003 Motion made that in the future the State Park Advisory Board will be consulted to review any changes of markers at state parks or historic and will make a recommendation to the decision makers. Motion carried.

April 11, 2003 Motion made that the State Park Advisory Board supports the general position of the department related to the decision on the Flag removal. Motion carried.

April 11, 2003 Motion made to draft a resolution then draft a letter to take a position on protection of the Division's dedicated funds. Motion carried.

April 11, 2003 Motion made to change the policy that rangers may live within 25 minutes of the park instead of 10 miles. Motion carried.

April 11, 2003 Motion made that the Division of State Parks not sell any property associated with the Katy Trail State Park. Motion carried.

July 11, 2003 Motion made to approve the purchase of the land adjacent to the Scott Joplin State Historic Site. Motion carried.

October 10, 2003 Motion made that the concession price increase proposal be approved. Motion carried.

October 10, 2003 Motion made that the Wild Area plan outline and provisional policy be approved. Motion carried.

October 10, 2003 Motion made that the Amoureux House name is changed to its historical name of Bauvais - Amoureux House. Motion carried.

October 10, 2003 Motion made to approve Bee Trace for the nomination of the Natural Area Program. Motion carried.

2003 YEAR-END SUMMARY

Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers Missouri's state park system, which includes 83 state parks and historic sites. With more than 140,000 acres, the state park system preserves the state's most outstanding natural landscapes and cultural landmarks, and provides opportunities for recreation. The following are some of the major accomplishments from 2003.

A study by the University of Missouri-Columbia for the department revealed that the state park system has a **significant economic impact** for the state. The study found that in 2002, visitors spent a total of \$410 million on trips to state parks and historic sites. When this amount is spent and re-spent in the economy, it brings the state park system's overall economic impact in the state to \$538 million. The total economic impact is based on any sale associated with the trip. The study also showed that state park expenditures support 7,660 jobs and generate \$162 million in income.

To improve customer service, a new **centralized reservation system** was implemented to make reserving campsites easier and more convenient. Approximately 2,000 campsites in 24 state parks can now be reserved either through a toll-free number or online. The system has proven to be so successful that 11 additional state parks will be added to the system in 2004. More than 45,000 reservations were made in 2003, compared with almost 16,000 reservations for 13 state parks in 2002 under the old system.

The department partnered with state, federal and private organizations to support the **Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative**. The initiative, which now includes 28 organizations, was created to coordinate efforts to conserve all Missouri bird species.

Roaring River State Park hosted another successful **WOW National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School** in October. The school is held to help participants master new outdoor skills or improve existing ones.

Special activities and programs were held throughout the summer at state parks along the **Meramec River**. The occasion marked the 25th anniversary of the vote to deauthorize the proposed Meramec River dam project and keep the river free flowing. Participating parks included Meramec, Castlewood and Onondaga Cave state parks.

Missouri's Great Lakes was the theme of the **2003 Missouri State Park Passport Program**, which invited visitors to explore the lakes of Missouri. The program encouraged participants to visit 10 state parks and historic sites to earn a commemorative patch.

Several changes in the **division's organization** were made to increase efficiency and to streamline operations while allowing the division to focus on other initiatives. Two districts were combined into one, allowing more focus on the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration. State parks and historic sites within the St. Louis area were combined under the Eastern Parks District to ensure better coordination of services and activities, and to increase urban outreach. Two programs were combined in the central office, allowing one program director position to be eliminated.

The division was a major sponsor of the national **Outdoor Writers Association of America** conference in June in Columbia. Approximately 800 outdoor writers from across the United States attended. The competition to host the annual conference is strong because of the significant exposure the host state and organizations receive from the writers. In addition to assisting with the conference planning, the division staffed a booth at the conference, offered story ideas, and planned several conference field trips.

The division received more than \$3.6 million in **grants, donations and gifts**. These included a \$1.6 million grant from the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (now Great

Rivers Greenway) for the Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park, and several federal Recreational Trail Program grants for state parks.

The **Interpretive Themes Task Force**, which was created to review topics and themes currently being interpreted and to recommend changes and additions needed to better represent the diversity of Missouri’s history, reviewed programs at six historic sites. The task force will soon begin compiling and writing its report to the division director.

Crafts and maintenance workers employed by nine state agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources, determined that AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) would serve as their **certified bargaining agent**, or union. Negotiations to enter into a memorandum of agreement began in May and were completed in December. The contract should take effect in mid February, following ratification by the union members and signing by agencies.

Through the **Volunteers in Parks** (VIP) program, more than 360 people volunteered as campground hosts, contributing almost 102,200 hours. More than 1,000 volunteers in other categories (aides, trail workers, interpreters, etc.) helped contribute to the total number of volunteer hours, which was almost 140,000.

Almost 180,000 people attended more than 270 **special events** in more than 60 state parks and historic sites.

Thirty-three communities and groups received \$2.1 million in federal **Recreational Trail Program** grants for construction, maintenance, restoration and development of trails.

Twenty-five communities received \$1.7 million in federal **Land and Water Conservation Fund** grants for outdoor recreation projects. Eight workshops were held around the state to increase public outreach and ensure that all local governments and schools had an opportunity to apply for the grants.

Work on **resource management plans** for state parks and historic sites is progressing. Cultural resource management plans are being reviewed for three facilities; natural resource management plans for seven facilities have been signed and plans are being written for 18 others.

The **Cultural Resource Fund** was used to underwrite 37 projects at six state parks, 18 historic sites and the Missouri State Museum. The projects were diverse in nature and included photo documentation of cave ceiling graffiti, preservation of photo collages, repair of vandalism to grave markers, stabilization and restoration of milling equipment, and conservation treatment of a leather trunk.

Through a partnership effort with the department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Silver Dollar City/Branson Belle, and the Ozark Mountain Nature Trail Association, planning was completed and funding was secured for a 2.9-mile paved **hiking/bicycling trail**, which will run from Table Rock State Park to the COE Dewey Short Visitor Center near Branson. Plans to extend the trail to connect to a trail system in Branson as well as to cross the Table Rock Dam are being considered.

The resource stewardship budget funded **landscape restoration** and exotic species control at 18 facilities. In addition, two AmeriCorps crews helped construct fire lines and conduct prescribed burns at numerous facilities statewide. Approximately 11,000 acres were prescribed burned, which is above the average number and consistent with strategic plan goals.

The **Natural Resource Information System** database was completed and use began in facilities statewide. This database allows for the storage and quick retrieval of natural history information for all parks, including lists such as bird, tree or wildflowers for visitors’ use.

Near the end of its fourth year of electronic cataloging, the division’s **artifact database** includes 65,880 records (an increase of 42,566 from the end of 2002). The division has approximately 200,000 artifacts in its collection. Initial cataloging was completed at Bennett Spring, Pershing, Washington and Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial state parks.

In association with Black History Month, an exhibit on the historic black community of Leeds was opened in the **Missouri State Museum** in February.

More than 40 **informational meetings** were held for each state park and historic site again in 2003. These meetings are held as a way to provide visitors with opportunities to comment on facilities and services. An estimated 650 people attended these meetings.

The public could receive information through **e-mail and mail requests** and the division's **toll-free number**. The division responded to more than 4,000 e-mail requests and more than 1,000 written requests for information. The division received 71,327 automated toll-free calls and responded to 15,339 operator-assisted toll-free calls.

Additional information was added to the division's **Web site**, including accessible information and photographs, campground maps for 11 parks and sites, and conceptual development plans and public surveys for four state parks. The Web site received 8,508,862 hits, a 98 percent increase from the same period in 2002.

To reach regular park users and attract new visitors, the division staffed **exhibits** at nine sports/RV shows, including ones in Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Joseph and Columbia. This was in addition to the Working Women's Survival Show in St. Louis, the Farmington Outdoor Show, the Missouri Equine Council Show, the Missouri State Fair and the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield. A special exhibit was developed and displayed at the American National Fish and Wildlife Museum in Springfield.

More than 400 bicyclists participated in the annual **Katy Trail Ride**, which takes participants on a 225-mile, five-day ride from Clinton to St. Charles on Katy Trail State Park. Ride participants ranged in age from four to 79 and came from 29 states. The ride was co-sponsored by the Missouri State Park Foundation.

The inn and conference center at Roaring River State Park was named the **Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center** in recognition of the former state senator's support of the park and the state park system.

Three of the state's four remaining **covered bridges** received grants from the Federal Highway Administration's National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program. Burfordville received \$99,556 for major roof replacement and fire protection; Union Covered Bridge received \$41,250 for cleaning, painting and fire protection; and Locust Creek Covered Bridge received \$18,368 for infrastructure related to fire protection.

A ceremony to reopen **Locust Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site** was held in July. The bridge restoration project included replacing bottom truss chords, constructing new approaches, raising the four concrete piers and replacing the roof.

The **Missouri State Park Foundation** assisted the state park system in the annual Katy Trail ride, obtaining portraits of past governors for the Capitol, and in financing Lewis and Clark interpretive markers program.

State park rangers were provided with a less expensive and more practical uniform. It is estimated that the new uniforms will save the division approximately \$60,000 over a five-year period.

A DSL (digital subscriber line) was installed at Long Branch State Park. The new **network connection technology** brings high-speed Internet access to the park. The main benefit of the improved communication involves SAM II data entry and allows park staff to enter payment vouchers for three additional parks. This system will greatly decrease the workload of park managers, allowing them to concentrate on their other management duties.

Interpretive plans, which determine how to best explain what parks and sites preserve and why, were completed for Lewis and Clark, Pershing and St. Francois state parks, and Arrow Rock State Historic Site. The second draft for the Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site plan is under review.

Following input and assistance from a citizens advisory group, a new policy for **state park wild areas** was produced. The policy greatly strengthens the division's wild area program, which includes 11 units totaling almost 23,000 acres.

A new law enforcement **electronic records management system** reduced operational costs associated with mailing field reports to supervisors. In addition, the new system automatically tracks uniform crime reporting and racial profiling data, which was manually tabulated in the past.

Interpreters at state parks and historic sites presented **tours and programs** to 1,142,866 visitors.

A **museum partnership grant** from the American Association of Museum will eventually result in the development of a joint exhibit on German immigrants to Missouri. As a part of the grant, a museum curator from the Missouri State Museum spent six weeks in Germany, then a staff person from the History Museum in Stuttgart, Germany, visited the state museum.

The **State Park Ranger Program** increased emphasis on patrolling state parks and historic sites with alternative methods (foot patrol, bicycle patrol, all-terrain vehicle patrol) to reduce operational costs associated with vehicular patrol while still providing security for the park system. This is part of the "community policing" effort of the division that began in 2002.

A new 12-minute **video** on "Butterflies and Moths of Missouri" was completed and will be made available to state parks and historic sites. Videos for Fort Davidson, Confederate Memorial and Mark Twain Birthplace state historic sites are being updated.

Approximately \$30,000 in supportive **biological inventory and scientific research** was funded through state universities to assist in the care and preservation of the state's natural resources.

The **Friends of Arrow Rock** held a dedication ceremony in September for the restored Lawless-Barger home at Arrow Rock State Historic Site. A lease agreement between the department and the Friends of Arrow Rock allowed the group to restore the home, which is now furnished and available for public events.

Five new exhibit cases were installed in the visitor contact area at **Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site**. The new exhibits allow more World War I era information to be shared with the public.

The **Friends of the Anderson House**, a support group made up primarily of Civil War re-enactors interested in the Battle of Lexington, has continued to sponsor several weekend special events at the site. This has increased the interpretive efforts at this site with little additional cost to the state.

A nomination was completed and submitted to place the home at Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site in the **National Register of Historic Places**.

Twenty-three bison were sold at a live auction to help reduce the herd at Prairie State Park. The bison, including a four-year-old bull that brought \$820, sold for almost \$10,000. The **bison herd** must be reduced to keep it at a size compatible with the prairie environment. In the past, bison were taken to bison sales throughout the state but the larger number required them to have an auction at the park.

Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site is a participant in a three-year **Ozarks in the Nation** grant program through the Southwest Education Center in Webb City. The money was used for interpretive items such as trunks and items for school programs. In preparation for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, staff put together a traveling trunk on the fur trade and expanded their Native American trunk.

A garden was developed and dedicated in memory of Dorothy Boyer Heinze at **Mastodon State Historic Site**. Mrs. Heinze was a founding member of the Mastodon Park Committee, the organization that raised funds to acquire the site and continues to support it.

A concession contract was signed with DePaul University of Chicago for use of the **Creole House**, a former bed and breakfast that is now a part of Felix Valle House State Historic Site.

The process for developing long-range **conceptual development plans** continued for Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial, Crowder, Pershing and Mark Twain state parks. Input from the public was sought through meetings, online surveys and surveys at each facility. Forty-six people attending the meetings but more than 250 surveys were returned. Almost 40 percent of the surveys were online. In addition to the completed surveys, there were more than 800 hits on the Web site related to the conceptual development plans.

A **visitor survey** was conducted by the University of Missouri from May to October 2003 at St. Joe State Park. The survey was to determine visitor demographics, frequency and duration of visitation, travel distance, activity participation, preference measures, economic impact and the extent a person identifies with or values the park.

More than 90 inner-city kids were given cave tours at Meramec State Park as part of the Missouri Parks Association's **Urban Population Outreach Project**. Another 400 inner city youth visited state parks and historic sites in the Kansas City area in conjunction with this program.

An acorn planting was held at Big Oak Tree State Park in recognition of the cooperation of several agencies to resolve the issue of the **St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid floodway**. As a part of the agreement, the federal government has agreed to purchase up to 1,800 acres and construct a \$1.2 million water control project for the park.

A site within Trail of Tears State Park was recommended as one of 25 trail sites along the **Trail of Tears National Historic Trail** for submission to the National Register of Historic Places. The site, recommended by a contractor for the National Park Service, is a remnant of the original trail near the Bushyhead Memorial. The other Missouri site is near the park.

The department and Pershing State Park were cooperating partners in a successful \$1.1 million **North American Wetland Conservation Act** grant received by the Missouri Department of Conservation and Ducks Unlimited. The grant will be used on land adjoining the state park, which will in turn benefit the park.

Prairie State Park increased in size by 320 acres; 240 of this total was acquired through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

A small resale program for souvenirs and camp commodities was developed at **Lake Wappapello State Park**.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources'
Division of State Parks at a Glance

Size: 83 state parks and historic sites.

Acreage: 140,041 acres

Visitation: 17,008,333

Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2003:

Total operating and capital improvement expenditures (less fringe benefits)	\$35,988,891
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Revenues from operations	\$ 9,205,247
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Revenues from dedicated sales tax	\$36,416,667
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Employment: 650 full-time employees; 109 seasonal employees

To reach us:

1-800-334-6946

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E-mail: moparks@dnr.mo.gov

Address: Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

For centralized campground reservations:

Call toll free 1-877-ICampMo (1-877-422-6766)

Visit www.mostateparks.com

2003 Major Improvement Projects

During 2003, many significant improvement and construction projects were accomplished within the state park system. Many were visible to the public while others included infrastructure projects that help protect the environment and provide a better overall service to the public. While some were contracted to private companies, the park system's inhouse construction units completed more than 125 projects. The following are some of the major highlights.

A two-mile trail was opened at **Morris State Park** near Campbell in southeast Missouri. The Beech Tree Trail is the first public access to the 161-acre park, which preserves a portion of a unique part of the state known as Crowley's Ridge. The park also contains an overlook and a vault toilet. Once interpretation has been completed at the park, an official grand opening of the park will occur.

A new 2.5-mile trail was dedicated in November in the Rock Hollow Unit of Castlewood State Park and Sherman Beach County Park. The **Al Foster Trail** is a cooperative effort between the Department of Natural Resources and St. Louis County Parks and Recreation. The trail was named for the late Al Foster, who was a lifelong advocate of protecting the Meramec River.

With the outside portion of the renovations completed for the home at **Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site**, the cabin was opened to the public. Work continues on the inside of the cabin.

In a major effort to improve camping services, 50-amp **electrical service** was added or is being added to campsites in Mark Twain, Meramec and Montauk state parks and Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and Historic Site. These upgrades will better meet the needs of present and future recreational vehicle campers.

The visitor center at **Route 66 State Park** reopened in September following major renovations. The renovation project included creating an orientation room and remodeling the center's exhibit hall and gift shop. New public restrooms, an elevator, and new mechanical and electrical systems were also included. Other improvements at the park included a new boat ramp on the Meramec River and two new picnic shelters in the day-use area.

A new 1.5-mile section of **Katy Trail State Park** opened in June through Sedalia. The new section of trail, which was made possible through assistance from the Sedalia/Pettis County Community Service Corporation, the William A. Kerr Foundation and a grant from the federal Recreational Trail Program, reduces the distance trail users must ride or walk on the city streets.

Major improvements began at **Lake Wappapello State Park**, including road improvements and renovation of the Allison Point boat ramp, and renovation of a shelter and day-use area. The Allison Point boat ramp project has been completed and work continues on the other projects.

A new four-plex cabin was dedicated at **Montauk State Park** in time for the March 1 opening of trout season. The cabin was built by Keeney, Inc., concessionaire at the park, in a partnership effort with the department.

Crews at **Washington State Park** continue the slow process of recovering from a violent thunderstorm on May 6. High winds uprooted or damaged thousands of trees. Falling trees damaged six buildings and closed the park for 17 days. Most of the park's facilities have been reopened with the exception of the special use area, the CCC shelter and the hiking trails. The trails and the special use area should be open by spring 2004.

Almost 20 **new playgrounds** were installed in state parks and historic sites, replacing ones that no longer met current safety standards.

Sam A. Baker, Pomme de Terre, and Table Rock state parks and Iliniwek Village State Historic Site were connected to **public utilities**, eliminating the need for individual water and sewer systems. Numerous other infrastructure improvements were made throughout the state park system.

Through the **pavement management program**, roads in 22 state parks and historic sites were overlaid at a total cost of \$2,265,389. The majority of the project was funded by federal funds administered by the Missouri Department of Transportation with the remaining funds from the Department of Natural Resources.

Improvements at **St. Francois State Park** included a renovated campground showerhouse, a new special use group camping area, and construction of a new campground contact booth, which has made operating the campground more efficient and has improved security. Showerhouses were also built at Table Rock and Crowder state parks.

Major **tree planting efforts** were undertaken at Bennett Spring State Park, Montauk State Park and Roaring River State Park, where 200 trees were planted. Through a volunteer/partnership effort, 375 trees were planted at Route 66 State Park.

Development continued at **Iliniwek Village State Historic Site**. A small office and storage room was constructed inside an existing pole barn. An interpretive kiosk, vault toilet, picnic table sites, fencing and signs have been installed.

With funds from a federal Recreational Trail Program grant, construction began on 25 additional pull-through electric campsites at **St. Joe State Park**. The campsites will be available for use in 2004.

Major renovations at **Camp Clover Point** in Lake of the Ozarks State Park included renovation of 10 barracks. Improvements are also under way at Camp Rising Sun.

Improvements at **Bennett Spring State Park** included renovation of two sleeper units (eight lodging rooms). The store also doubled in size.

In a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation, 1,500 feet of log jam were removed from Locust Creek in **Pershing State Park**.

Partnerships have resulted in improvements at **Long Branch State Park**. An accessible fishing dock was the result of a cost-share agreement with the department, the Department of Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). The Long Branch Lake Association will cost-share on a playground for the campground. The Macon Rotary Club will cost-share on a playground for the South Shelter Area. An agreement with the COE will help fund a project to stop beach and picnic area erosion.

Finger Lakes State Park was awarded a federal Recreational Trails Program grant for 25 new campsites, a showerhouse and off-road vehicle wash rack. Work should begin in 2004.

Major renovations were completed, including a new electrical system, for **Camp Shawnee** in Knob Noster State Park. Assistance on part of the renovation project was provided by members of AmeriCorps.

Work began on the renovation of a building at **Missouri Mines State Historic Site** to include a site maintenance shop with office, storage room, garage area, and staff/public restrooms.

Work continued on the campground renovation project at **Onondaga Cave State Park**. The campground is scheduled to be open in April 2004.

Construction is ongoing to stabilize the Delmar Row houses, which are part of **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site**. A contract has been awarded to begin construction of a fence around the Ragtime Garden.

Through the assistance of a volunteer equestrian group, construction began on a multi-use equestrian, bicycling and hiking trail at **Robertsville State Park**.

The park office at **Sam A. Baker State Park** was moved out of the visitor center to provide more room for exhibit space and an indoor classroom. The office is now located in a nearby former residence.

Work continued on development of info depots at all trailheads along **Katy Trail State Park**. The wooden kiosks contain information about the trail and the surrounding communities.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Projects in 2003

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has made a major commitment to activities commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This is being carried out in two major areas: support from the department's Division of State Park staff for the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and projects the division is doing within the state park system. The following are some of the major accomplishments concerning the bicentennial.

Two new facilities have been added to the state park system in connection with the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial. Through a unique partnership, 865 acres was added to the new **Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park**, which is located at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers in St. Charles County. Through a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the department was able to acquire 350 acres to protect wetlands. An additional 515 acres was added, thanks to an agreement with the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (now Great Rivers Greenway), which will lease the land to the department for \$1 for 25 years. In addition, the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District gave the department \$1.6 million to be used to provide access to the confluence point. An agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is allowing the park office to be located on its property. In addition to wetland restoration, the 1,118-acre park will offer trails, wildlife observation and interpretation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The park is scheduled to open in May 2004 for the bicentennial.

Work began on development of **Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site** near Osage City in Cole County. The 13-acre site preserves a hill that William Clark noted in his journal in 1804 when the Corps of Discovery camped at the confluence of the Missouri and Osage rivers. The site, which will feature a trail, overlook and interpretive information, will open in the summer of 2004 in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial.

A new overlook was developed and dedicated at **Trail of Tears State Park** near Cape Girardeau. The new accessible overlook provides outstanding views of the Mississippi River and includes interpretation on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The overlook was dedicated in November in conjunction with local activities commemorating the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark traveling up the Mississippi River.

An agreement with a local landowner will allow temporary limited access to **Sugar Loaf Rock**, a prominent landmark in Cole County that was mentioned in the Lewis and Clark journals. Division staff will be allowed to guide tours to the landmark for the bicentennial.

Development continues on info depots at trailheads on **Katy Trail State Park** along the Missouri River, which will contain information on Lewis and Clark. Katy Trail State Park contains the longest non-motorized segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Work continues on interpretive efforts at **Van Meter State Park** near Marshall to emphasize Native American themes to tell all the stories of the expedition.

Designs were completed for an interpretive feature at **Lewis and Clark State Park** near Rushville. The design will feature a half-scale replica of a keelboat and interpretive information and should be open by July 2004.

A third round of **Corps of Discovery grants** was administered, bringing the total to \$1,496,000 awarded to 52 communities and organizations.

Staff from state parks and historic sites supplemented programming from the National Park Service's Corps II traveling exhibit and **Tent of Many Voices** in November in the Cape Girardeau area. Planning for Lewis and Clark programs in 2004 is under way.

Division staff have been coordinating an effort to develop and place more than **100 interpretive markers** at publicly accessible locations along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

The signs along the Mississippi River are already in place and work continues on signs along the Missouri River. Many of these signs will be placed in state parks and historic sites, including numerous ones along Katy Trail State Park.

A major event of the bicentennial is the opening of **“Lewis and Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition”** at the Missouri History Museum. A smaller traveling version of this exhibit can be scheduled for organizations and communities. Staff from the division’s Missouri State Museum is handling the scheduling of the traveling exhibit.

Division staff supports the commission in many ways, including the development of a **Web site** intended to be the main source of information for bicentennial activities in Missouri. This Web site, www.lewisandclarkmo.com, received 276,564 hits in 2003, a 56.8 percent increase from 2002. Other support for the commission included the development of a brochure, traveling exhibit, electronic newsletter, and a special event planning guide.

Awards and Recognitions in 2003

Many individuals and groups received awards or were recognized in some way during 2003.

The Missouri state park system was recognized as one of the best state park systems in the country, placing as one of three finalists in the **2003 National Gold Medal and State Park Awards Program**. The awards are presented to communities throughout the United States for excellence in park and recreation administration. This was the fourth time the state park system received the recognition.

Readers of *Rural Missouri* voted 12 Missouri state parks as the best vacation destinations in a **“Best of Missouri”** poll taken by the newspaper. Ha Ha Tonka, Roaring River, Bennett Spring and Johnson’s Shut-Ins state parks were voted the favorite state parks. Ha Ha Tonka State Park and Arrow Rock, Mark Twain Birthplace and Bollinger Mill were listed as the best historic sites. The Best Camping Spots were Bennett Spring, Roaring River and Mark Twain state parks. Katy Trail State Park was voted the Best Outdoor Adventure, while Onondaga Cave State Park ranked in the category of Best Cave. Camp Clover Point in Lake of the Ozarks State Park and Camp Sherwood Forest in Cuivre River State Park were voted as favorite summer camps. Although the state parks were not mentioned specifically, in both the Best Lakes and Best Fishing Spots categories, lakes and rivers that border state parks were voted favorites. These included Lake of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake, Truman Lake, Bennett Spring and Pomme de Terre Lake.

A volunteer stewardship project at Ha Ha Tonka State Park resulted in a **Take Pride in America** award for the Camdenton Middle School in Camdenton. The 30 eighth grade students volunteered their time to help restore a glade and savanna landscape at the park. The school was one of only 15 organizations nationwide to receive the award and was one of only two schools to be recognized.

Castlewood State Park was named as the Best Place to Hike in the 2003 Best of St. Louis issue of the Riverfront Times. The park was also mentioned as one of the 85 best things in St. Louis by the editors of St. Louis Magazine.

The **Association of Missouri Interpreters** (AMI) gave awards to several Division of State Park employees. Jeremy Soucy, a seasonal employee at Montauk State Park, received the Graduate Student Scholarship Award. Jamie Hubert, a seasonal employee at Sam A. Baker State Park, received the Undergraduate Student Scholarship Award. Receiving the Best Interpretive Effort Award by an individual was Rita Martin, a seasonal employee at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. The group award in the same category went to the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park with special recognition given to Daniel Boone Regional Library, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and Bat Conservation International. Christy Dablemont, a seasonal naturalist at Pomme de Terre State Park received the Distinguished Interpreter of the Year in the seasonal category. Grady Manus, former site administrator at Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site, received the Distinguished Interpreter of the Year Award in the professional category.

The **Missouri Park and Recreation Association (MPRA)** presented Denny Bopp, district supervisor for the Ozarks District, with the Fellow Award, which is the highest award given by MPRA. It is given to members who render outstanding service to recreation and/or parks in the state.

The video, “Mountains of Antiquity,” produced by the Interpretation Program, received two awards. It won the **Silver AXIEM (Absolute Excellence in Electronic Media) Award**, which is an international award, and the **Ambassador Award** from the Missouri Division of Tourism, which is awarded to an individual, business or organization that has supported the state’s tourism promotions.

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS – ACREAGE FIGURES**Dec. 31, 2003****(Revised)****STATE PARKS – 49**

2,438.75	Edmund A. Babler Memorial
5,323.62	Sam A. Baker
3,208.10	Bennett Spring
407.41	Big Lake
1,028.68	Big Oak Tree
2,082.54	Big Sugar Creek
1,802.65	Castlewood
1,912.10	Crowder
6,393.94	Cuivre River
131.74	Elephant Rocks
1,128.69	Finger Lakes
359.86	Graham Cave
321.96	Grand Gulf
3,637.74	Ha Ha Tonka
4,953.66	Hawn
8,549.51	Johnson's Shut-Ins
1,117.90	Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones- Confluence Point State Park
2,927.05	Katy Trail
3,567.38	Knob Noster
17,441.52	Lake of the Ozarks
1,854.00	Lake Wappapello
223.97	Lewis and Clark
1,828.47	Long Branch
6,896.33	Meramec
1,939.12	Montauk
160.76	Morris
1,316.70	Onondaga Cave
3,565.66	Pershing
734.44	Pomme de Terre
3,942.00	Prairie
3,733.38	Roaring River
1,224.65	Robertsville
2,272.83	Rock Bridge Memorial
418.61	Route 66
2,734.97	St. Francois
8,242.98	St. Joe
2,175.90	Stockton
356.03	Table Rock
7,460.07	Taum Sauk Mountain
3,080.04	Thousand Hills
3,415.39	Trail of Tears
1,440.00	Harry S Truman
2,775.14	Mark Twain
983.43	Van Meter
1,053.87	Wakonda
501.61	Wallace
2,106.07	Washington
818.11	Watkins Mill
1,133.08	Weston Bend
136,580.41	SUBTOTAL

STATE HISTORIC SITES – 34

167.39	Arrow Rock
403.36	Battle of Athens
7.40	Battle of Carthage
92.25	Battle of Lexington
0.32	Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio
43.00	Bollinger Mill
400.20	Nathan Boone Homestead
51.17	Boone's Lick
246.91	Bothwell Lodge
13.40	Clark's Hill/Norton
135.22	Confederate Memorial
0.61	Deutschheim
131.77	Dillard Mill
1.37	Dunklin's Grave
0.66	First Missouri State Capitol
77.19	Fort Davidson
19.48	Hunter-Dawson
127.49	Iliniwek Village
1.27	Jefferson Landing
0.45	Jewell Cemetery
3.86	Scott Joplin House
32.22	Locust Creek Covered Bridge
425.00	Mastodon
25.00	Missouri Mines
100.00	Osage Village
2.69	Gen. Pershing Boyhood Home
205.78	Sandy Creek Covered Bridge
2.0	Sappington Cemetery
64.0	Towosahgy
1.74	Harry S Truman Birthplace
13.00	Mark Twain Birthplace
1.24	Union Covered Bridge
10.13	Felix Valle House
624.00	Watkins Woolen Mill
3,431.57	SUBTOTAL

OTHER FACILITIES – 5

7.46	Brookfield District Office
8.67	Festus District Office
10.00	Lebanon District Office
2.06	Boonville District Office
2.27	Capitol Complex
30.46	SUBTOTAL

GRAND TOTAL ACRES 140,042.44